

## **METHOD FOR PRESERVING WIRELESS RESOURCES IN A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK**

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

5           In one embodiment of the present invention, an access point (111) receives  
a multicast packet intended for a particular multicast group. Upon receipt, the  
access point only rebroadcast the multicast packet over a wireless segment if it  
determines that there is at least one wireless subscriber unit (131) belonging to the  
particular multicast group and associated with the access point that did not  
10   originate the multicast packet. Optionally, if the multicast packet signals an  
automatic rebroadcast of the multicast packet over the wireless segment, the  
access point automatically rebroadcasts the multicast packet without determining  
whether there is at least one wireless subscriber unit belonging to the particular  
multicast group and associated with the access point that did not originate the  
15   multicast packet.